

Serial No. 09/534,309
Docket No. 4-165US-FF
USH.010

5

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. This Amendment currently amends claims 1 and 4-6. No new matter is added to currently amended claims 1 and 4-6. Claims 1 and 4-6 are currently amended to merely clarify the subject matter of the claims and in no way narrow the scope of the claims in order to overcome the prior art or for any other statutory purpose of patentability.

Notwithstanding any claim amendments of the present Amendment or those amendments that may be made later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,781,773 to Vanderpool et al. (hereinafter, Vanderpool). Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Vanderpool and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,466,941 to Rowe et al. (hereinafter, Rowe).

These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention, as defined in claim 1, is directed to an apparatus for controlling display of database search items that comprises a database including an element-data storage table in which has been stored, on a field-by-field basis, element data corresponding to the fields, an item-name table which stipulates, field-by-field, an item name character that corresponds to a search-item name and a field name, and a display-item designation table that stores ordered display-item data corresponding to the item name character for an ordered display on a display unit, the ordered display being determined by a user, and a select-command input device for applying a select command for designating the ordered display-item data, a display-item data read-out device for reading out, from the display-item designation table, the ordered display-item data that conforms to the select command applied by the select-command input device, a search-item name read-out device for reading out, from the item-name table, the search-item name to be displayed on the

Serial No. 09/534,309
Docket No. 4-165US-FF
USH.010

6

display unit, the search-item name being designated by the ordered display-item data read out by the display-item data read-out device, and a display control unit for displaying the search-item name, which has been read out by the search-item name read-out device, on the display unit as a database search-item name.

The claimed invention, as defined in claim 6, is directed to a method of controlling display of search items of a database including an element-data storage table in which has been stored, on a field-by-field basis, element data corresponding to the fields, an item-name table which stipulates, field-by-field, an item name character that corresponds to a search-item name and a field name, and a display-item designation table that stores ordered display-item data corresponding to said item name character for an ordered display determined by a user on a display unit. The method comprising applying a select command for designating the ordered display-item data, reading out, from the display-item designation table, the ordered display-item data that conforms to the select command applied, reading out, from the item-name table, a search-item name to be displayed on the display unit, the search-item name being designated by the ordered display-item data read out, and displaying the search-item name, which has been read out, on the display unit as a database search-item name in an ordered display determined by a user.

An exemplary aspect of the present invention is to allow a user not accustomed to using databases, the capability of making changes or additions to the search items of a database in a comparatively simple manner.

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. The Vanderpool Reference

Fig. 5 of Vanderpool discloses a database generation process 30, in which a text record merge file 84 and a listing number file 86 are applied to a database builder program 34 (col. 6, lines 33-36). In addition, various user defined inputs 32 are provided to the database builder 43 (col. 6, lines 36-37). Such user defined inputs may include: lists of the fields of the various commonly formatted data which the database builder is to index in table form; lists of fields to be used as summary data; and the data to be used as tax data (col. 6, lines 37-41).

Serial No. 09/534,309
Docket No. 4-165US-FF
USH.010

7

As shown in Fig. 9 of Vanderpool, the search routine 140 provides a startup screen 142 that is utilized to initialize the system with proper identification 143 and bring up a search screen 144 (col. 9, lines 24-29). The search screen 144 provides the interface for the user to define search queries and then request the results of such search queries per the results screen 146 (col. 6, lines 29-32). The grid type results screen 146 displays the results of the search when more than one property results from the search (col. 9, lines 32-34).

Claim 1 recites at least the features of "a display-item designation table that stores ordered display-item data corresponding to said item name character for an ordered display on a display unit, the ordered display being determined by a user."

Claim 6 recites at least the features of "reading out, from the display-item designation table, the ordered display-item data ... the search-item name being designated by the ordered display-item data read out; and displaying the search-item name, which has been read out, on the display unit as a database search-item name in an ordered display determined by a user."

As argued in the previous response, the present invention includes three tables: (1) an element-data storage table the stores the data, (2) an item-name table that "links" through an item-name number the data of the element-data storage table with (3) the display-item designation table, which provides an ordered display on a display unit, where the ordered display is determined by a user.

Nowhere does Vanderpool teach or suggest the function of displaying the results of a search query as an ordered display, determined by the user, on a display unit as recited in claims 1 and 6. Vanderpool merely disclose in Fig. 5 the ability to merge two files by a commercial database builder.

For at least the reasons outlined above, Applicants respectfully submit that Vanderpool fails to teach or suggest every feature of claims 1 and 6. Accordingly, Vanderpool fails to render obvious the subject matter of claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully solicited.

B. The Rowe Reference

The Examiner cites Rowe for disclosing a method of editing items in tables of a

Serial No. 09/534,309
Docket No. 4-165US-FF
USH.010

8

database (Final Action, page 4, lines 4-5).

However, Rowe does not cure the deficiencies of Vanderpool. Nowhere does Rowe disclose, teach or suggest the features of "a display-item designation table that stores ordered display-item data corresponding to said item name character for an ordered display on a display unit, the ordered display being determined by a user," as recited in claim 1.

For at least the reasons outlined above, Applicants respectfully submit that Vanderpool and Rowe, either individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest every feature of claim 1. Accordingly, Vanderpool and Rowe, either individually or in combination, fail to render obvious the subject matter of claim 1 and claims 2-5, which depend from claim 1, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Vanderpool in view of Rowe is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-6, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

Serial No. 09/534,309
Docket No. 4-165US-FF
USH.010

9

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 5/10/04

Peter A. Balnave
Peter A. Balnave
Reg. No. 46,199

McGinn & Gibb, PLLC
8321 Old Courthouse Road
Vienna, Virginia 22182-3817
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Joshua D. Campbell, Group Art Unit 2178 at Official Facsimile Number (703) 872-9306 this 10th day of May, 2004.

Peter A. Balnave
Peter A. Balnave
Reg. No. 46,199